GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2845
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2001
PRODUCTION OF WHEELSETS
C. SREENIVAASAN;PUTTASWAMY GOWDA;SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of wheelsets made by Wheels and Axle Plants, Bangalore, during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the total number of wheelsets imported by the Government during the said period;

(c) the steps Government have taken to produce Wheels and Axles in the country; and

(d) the target achieved in this direction?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(b) to (d) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2845 BY SHRI UTTA SWAMY GOWDA, SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU & SHRI C. SAREENIVASAN TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 15-03-2 REGARDING PRODUCTION OF WHEEL SETS.

(a) The total production of wheelsets assembly made by Wheel and Axle Plants, Bangalore,during the last three years, year-wise is as under:-

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1997-1998   =   38500,
1998-1999   =   38624,
1999-2000   =   30258
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(b) Railways has not imported wheelsets (wheel disc & axle assembly) as such during the last three years for their own use.

(c) Railways are presently manufacturing wheels and axles in house at Wheel & Axle Plant, Bangalore besides getting indigenous supplies from Durgapur Steel Plant. The installed annual capacity of Wheel & Axle Plant/Bangalore was earlier augmented from 76,000 wheels to 95,000 wheels and is now under the process of further augmentation to 1,15,000 wheels per annum. Similarly the capacity to manufacture axles has been augmented from 35000 to 50000 axles.

Durgapur Steel Plant had been supplying mainly BG coaching wheels, BG coaching wheelsets and Axles till 1999-2000.BG loco wheels were developed by DSP during 1995-96. However supplies had been meager till 1999-2000 and bulk of the requirement was being met by imports. Durgapur Steel Plant have modernised their wheel plant and augmented their capacity and are now in a position to meet bulk of the requirement of BG loco wheels (about 25,000).

(d). Wheel & Axle Plant was primarily manufacturing wagon wheels upto 1993. In 1993 WAP developed the capability to manufacture BG coaching wheel. Now WAP have developed capability to manufacture Cast wheels for MG coaches and BG locomotives (for freight operations). MG cast loco wheels are also being developed, thereby eliminating the need for imports.

Durgapur Steel Plant is also now in a position to meet bulk of the requirement of BG locomotive wheels (about 25,000).Thus no order has been placed for import of BG loco wheels during 2000-2001 and the full requirement is being met by DSP.